

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 and 38-42 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 6, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the references listed in the February 6, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement, in the next Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-22, 25-36 and 38-42 are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,746. Further, the Examiner has rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schuster (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,627). In addition, claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,241). For the reasons set out below, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

I. Claims 23 and 24

Applicants have amended claim 23 to recite a geometric beam splitter having a first planar reflective surface and a second planar reflective surface. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 24 to recite a geometric beam splitter having a single planar reflective surface. Schuster fails to disclose planar folding mirrors and Ishiyama fails to disclose a geometric beam splitter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, claims 23 and 24 are now in allowable form.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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